



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

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Monday, April 30, 2018

7:00 PM

Groton Senior Center

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#### ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.*

*32 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Perry, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Washington, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney

Members Absent: Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Marley, Rep. Pasqualini Jr. and Rep. Powers

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Registrars of Voters Kristen Venditti and Paul Duarte, Town Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Town Councilors David Atwater and Rachael Franco, Board of Education member Lee White, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

*Rep. Bordelon arrived at 7:06 p.m. 33 members present.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members joined the Moderator in a moment of silence and Salute to the Flag.*

#### C. CALL OF THE MEETING

*Moderator Syma Ebbin read the Call of the Meeting.*

#### 2018-0106 Resolution Setting RTM Annual Meeting Date for the FYE 2019 Town Budget

#### RESOLUTION SETTING RTM ANNUAL MEETING DATE ON THE FYE 2019 TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 9.3.1 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, 102 Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut.

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*Moderator Ebbin explained the protocol for the citizens comments and imposed a five minute time limit.*

*Patrice Granatosky, 30 North Prospect Street, thanked the RTM members for their time and careful consideration of the FYE 2019 budget, noting it is their most important duty as RTM members. She expressed appreciation for their service.*

*Gretchen Chipperini, 87 Phoenix Drive, stated that Groton is in a serious financial crisis. Her solution is to severely reduce the size of local government, keep the mill rate down and put all of*

*it's effort into Economic Development.*

**E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

*Moderator Ebbin read a letter from George and Gretchen Gauthier of 166 Tyler Avenue. They are concerned about the Groton Transfer Stations proposed limited hours of operations, thus reducing public access.*

*Moderator Ebbin stated that Rep. Bailey notified the Town Clerk of his absence this evening.*

**F. BUDGET UPDATE - Town Manager & Superintendent of Schools**

*Town Manager John Burt noted his FYE 2019 budget started at a 6.5% increase over the FYE 2018 adjusted budget. He explained the majority of the increase this year has to do with health care costs and large Capital Improvement Projects.*

*Mr. Burt commended the Town Council on their thoroughness in going through accounts and reduced the budget by approximately \$2.7 million which translates in to an approximate 2.8% increase in the mill rate.*

*Town Manager Burt thanked the RTM members in advance for all the work they will be doing in the FYE 2019 budget sessions.*

*Rep. Massett requested that at least one Groton Town Councilor attend all of the RTM budget sessions in order to give the Council's rationale for their figures.*

*Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner stated the FYE 2019 budget presented by the Board of Education was an approximate 2.4% increase over FYE 2018. His staff and the Town Councilors made an effort to get to the Minimum Budget Requirement which is a 0% increase. The FYE 2019 Education budget is \$76,468,239, the same as it was last year. The Board of Education will be available on May 9th, when the Education account comes before the RTM, to address how they will implement a \$1.8 million reduction.*

*Moderator Ebbin reminded the members that the Education budget will be addressed on May 9th and to please reserve their questions and comments until then.*

*The Moderator refreshed members on Roberts Rules of Order regarding motions and time limits. She requested that all members be mindful and respectful to insure all members have the opportunity to voice questions, concerns and remarks.*

**G. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2018-0119 FYE 2019 RTM Annual Budget Meeting Schedule**

**FYE 2019 RTM ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE**

**See attached schedule for details of budget sessions. Note that the schedule is subject to change.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Washington read portions of minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2018 applicable to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve minutes was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1003 - Voter Registration**

*A motion for \$157,224 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Whitehouse.*

*Rep. Newsome questioned why only a portion of the Finance Committee minutes were read.*

*Town Clerk Moukawsher responded that in the past the committee minutes could be lengthy and if the accounts came up on a later date, members had trouble recalling the rationale of the committees figures. This is a way to ensure as the members prepare to vote on an account the minutes and rationale are fresh in their minds.*

*Rep. Richards questioned why the Registrars originally requested more than what was put on the Town Manager and Town Councils budget. What accounts for the difference in the numbers.*

*Registrar Venditti explained they put extra money in their budget to hire an employee prior to the election so they are familiar with office operation and are able to prepare for the election to make Election Day run more efficiently. She stated the Town Manager pulled those funds out as he felt it was not necessary.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Registrar Venditti explained the Memory Card Program and the Help America Vote Program.*

*Rep. J. Streeter questioned the approximate discrepancies between what is budgeted for two primaries and budgeted for the general election. He also inquired if the City of Groton is having an election this year and if so, does the Town pay for it.*

*Registrar Venditti explained that the two primaries have less voter turnout than the general election and therefore they have less expenses with poll staffing, etc.*

*Rep. Whitney asked about repercussions if their budget was cut.*

*Registrar Venditti explained they have to follow state mandates. The number of people hired for any election correlates with how contested a particular election is.*

*The vote on \$157,224 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 1005 - Town Clerk**

*A motion for \$316,203 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Martin.*

*Responding to questions from Reps. Rogers and Powers, Town Clerk Moukawsher explained where the revenue that is generated from her department comes from and stated there are five full time employees in her department, including herself, and the approximate number of customers the department serves daily.*

*The vote on \$316,203 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account - Finance Administration**

*A motion for \$1,465,313 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon questioning the size of the staff the Finance Department employs, Finance Director Landry explained in FYE 2017 a position was cut from her department and they saw a significant loss of revenue coming from collection of back taxes. The position was restored in FYE 2018 and the department has seen the collection of back taxes growing.*

*The vote on \$1,465,313 carried 32 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 2120 - Revaluation Fund**

*A motion for \$88,800 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep.*

*Powers.*

*Rep. Chase asked what the \$88,800 would fund as the next re-evaluation is not until 2021.*

*Ms. Landry explained the data mailer system, the new procedure they are using for the 2021 re-evaluation. Through out the year they are sending out mailers and a part of the funds are being used for postage, printing, supplies etcetera. The bulk of the funds are to be used for legal fees, as historically when there is a major re-evaluation, there will be numerous lawsuits.*

*Finance Director Landry, responding to Rep. Newsome, explained where payments from other funds come from.*

*In response to Rep. Powers, Ms. Landry noted the difference between the five year versus the ten year re-evaluation and how it impacts the overall budget.*

*The vote on \$88,800 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 1076 - Debt Service**

*A motion for \$5,266,790 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. McDermott.*

*The vote on \$5,266,790 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 2060 - Mumford Cove**

*A motion for \$21,043 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*The vote on \$21,043 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 4010 Groton Sewer District**

*A motion for \$803,445 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. I. Streeter.*

*Rep. Marshall noted that for this account Actual 2017 and FYE 2018 are both higher than the request for this year. What is the reason for that?*

*Finance Director Landry explained that this account is primarily a debt service and as loan payments get applied, the debt goes down.*

*The vote on \$803,445 carried unanimously.*

*At 8:23 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Thursday, May 3, 2018**

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Martin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Perry, Rep. Powers, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Washington, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney*  
*Members Absent: Rep. Doyle, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Marley, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn and Rep. Wagner*

*Moderator Ebbin stated 31 members were present and declared a quorum.*

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resorce*

*Director Robert Zagami, Information Technology Manager Brian Hancock, City of Groton Mayor Keith Hendrick, Groton City Finance Director Nixon, Groton City Police Chief Spellman, Groton City Public Works Director Timothy Umrysz Town Councilors Conrad Heede and Lian Obrey, Groton Long Point President Michael Flynn, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)**

*Chairman Washington read applicable portions of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file)*

**Account 1012 - Human Resources**

*A motion for \$317,074 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*Mr. Burt and Mr. Zagami responded to questions from Reps. Newsome, Massett and Hanscom.*

*The vote on \$317,074 carried unanimously.*

**Account 1070 - Insurance and Claims**

*A motion for \$667,498 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*Mr. Burt and Mr. Zagami responded to questions from Reps. Massett, Cini, Mello Miller, Merritt, and J. Streeter.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$657,498 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Newsome stated that he thought some saving could be shaved off of this fund.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$647,498 was made by Rep. Bordelon, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*The vote on \$647,498 carried 19 in favor, 11 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Casper, Melendez, Monaghan, Perry, Powers, Richards, Stanford, Washington, Welles, Whitehouse and Whitney. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)*

**Account 1071 - Self Funded Plans**

*A motion for \$8,696,656 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Monaghan.*

*MOTION TO AMEND TO \$8,196,656 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that this account can be reduced.*

*Mr. Burt and Mr. Zagami responded to Reps. Whitehouse, Bordelon, Powers, Washington, Casper and Whitney.*

*Rep. Stanford left at 7:58 p. m. 30 members present.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$8,196,656 failed 4 in favor, 26 opposed, 1 not voting. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Chase, Kotowski and McDermott. Not voting: Rep. Stanford.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$8,446,656 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that this figure was a compromise.*

*Rep. Stanford returned. 31 members present.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$8,446,656 failed 7 in favor, 23 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Chase, Kotowski, McDermott, Martin, Newsome and Perry. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$8,800,000 was made by Rep. Whitehouse, seconded by Rep. Casper.*

*Reps Kotowski and Whitehouse commented on this figure. Moderator Ebbin announced that this amendment would need two-thirds voting in favor to pass.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$8,800,000 failed 6 in favor, 24 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Casper, Melendez, Powers, Strobe, Welles and Whitehouse. Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)*

*Moderator Ebbin called for the main motion. The vote on \$8,696,656 carried 29 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 1011 - Information Technology**

*A motion for \$1,016,689 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$969,005 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$969,005 failed 3 in favor 28 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Kotowski and Martin.)*

*The vote on \$1,016,689 carried 29 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 6050 - Technology Replacement Fund**

*A motion for \$58,988 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on \$58,988 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Information Technology Infrastructure**

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Mr. Hancock responded to Reps. Whitney, Casper, Powers, Melendez, and Mello Miller.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$7,000 was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Whitney stating that this was a compromise figure.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$7,000 failed 8 in favor 23 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Hanscom, Melendez, Mello Miller, Powers, Rogers, Whitehouse and Whitney.)*

*The vote on \$0 carried 28 in favor 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Hanscom, Mello Miller and Whitney.)*

#### **Capital Item - IT Security**

*A motion for \$92,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*The vote on \$92,000 carried unanimously.*

*A recess was called at 8:55 p.m.*

*Rep. Cini left at 9:00 p.m. 30 members present.*

*The meeting resumed at 9:07 p.m.*

**Account 10900 - City of Groton Police**

*A motion for \$2,443,079 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*City of Groton Mayor Hedrick gave a brief history of the Special Act granted by the State of Connecticut. He responded to questions and comments from Reps. Newsome, Powers and Bordelon.*

*The vote on \$2,443,079 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10901 - City of Groton Highway Maintenance**

*A motion for \$2,050,863 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*Comments were made by Rep. Monaghan regarding a number of Town Attorney's opinions. Mr. Burt and Mr. Hedrick responded to Reps. Whitehouse, Newsome, Casper, Whitney, Bordelon, and McDermott.*

*A motion to move this account to the last budget meeting date to have time to get the Town Attorneys opinion on this matter was made by Rep. Richard, seconded by Rep. Ebbin. Members discussed the merits of postponing this account.*

*The vote on the motion to move this account to last budget meeting failed unanimously.*

*The vote on \$2,050,863 carried 28 in favor 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Monaghan and Whitney.)*

**Account 10904 - City of Groton Street Lighting**

*A motion for \$115,094 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on \$115,094 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10910 Groton Long Point Police**

*A motion for \$243,530 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Mr. Mike Flynn responded to Reps. Bordelon, Merritt, Kotowski, and Mello Miller.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$288,750 was made by Rep. Frickman, seconded by Rep. Casper.*

*Reps. Washington and Merritt made comments regarding the differences between this account and the City of Groton.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$288,750 failed 14 in favor 14 opposed 2 abstentions. (In favor: Reps. Casper, Frickman, Martin, Massett, Mello Miller, Merritt, Newsome, Powers, Richards, Rogers, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Whitehouse, and Whitney. Abstaining: Reps. Adams and Stanford.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$278,750 was made by Rep. Frickman, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$278,750 failed 13 in favor 17 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Casper, Frickman, Martin, Mello Miller, Merritt, Newsome, Powers, Richards, Rogers, I. Streeter, Strode, Whitehouse, and Whitney.)*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$266,030 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller, as a comprise figure.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$266,030 carried 18 in favor 12 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Bauer, Bordelon, Chase, Hanscom, Kotowski, McDermott, Melendez, Monaghan, Perry, Washington, and Welles.)*

**Account 10911 - Groton Long Point Highway Maintenance**

*A motion for \$186,794 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote on \$186,794 carried.*

*A motion to rescind the previous vote was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. I. Streeter.*

*The motion to rescind the previous vote carried unanimously.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$179,813 was made by Rep. Richards, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$179,813 carried 24 in favor 3 opposed 3 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Massett, Merritt and Newsome. Abstaining Reps. Frickman, Monaghan and Whitney.)*

*Rep. McDermott left. 29 members present.*

**Account 10912 - Groton Long Point Street Lighting**

*A motion for \$16,241 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote on \$16,241 carried 27 in favor 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Frickman and Merritt.)*

*Rep. Whitehouse left. 28 members present.*

**Account 1077 - Contributions to Other Funds**

*A motion for \$1,699,159 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on \$1,699, 159 carried 26 in favor 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Merritt and Whitney.)*

*At 10:37 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting until May 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.*

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**Budget Session - Monday, May 7, 2018**

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.*

Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Perry, Rep. Powers, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Welles and Rep. Whitehouse  
Members Absent: Rep. Doyle, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marley, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Washington and Rep. Whitney

*Moderator Ebbin stated that 30 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Oliver, Wagner and Whitney notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resource Director Robert Zagami, Information Technology Manager Brian Hancock, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Public Works Assistant Director Chris Lund, Public Works Supervisor Stacey Leitch, Town Councilor Rachael Franco, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

*Rep. Monaghan stated that he had reviewed the Town Attorney opinions regarding Groton Long Point and agrees with their findings. The RTM has no authority to change the amount for the highway account.*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)**

*Due to Chairman Washingtons absence, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2018 that pertain to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file)*

*A motion to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee April 25, 2018 was made by Moderator Ebbin, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*The motion carried 28 in favor 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Marshall and Newsome.)*

#### **Capital Item 7) J - Website Design**

*A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Ebbin, seconded by Rep. McDermott.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Reps. Kotowski stated that this was not a necessary expenditure.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$50,000 was made by Rep. Whitehouse, seconded by Rep. Casper.*

*Mr. Hancock responded to Reps. Whitehouse, Casper, McDermott, Frickman, Marshall, Rogers, and J. Streeter. Councilor Franco explained the Town Council rationale for moving the expenditure up from 2020 to 2019. Mr. Hancock responded to Rep. Chase. Moderator Ebbin responded to Rep. Merritt. Mr. Burt and Mr. Hancock responded to Reps. Bordelon, Gustavson, Bailey, and Powers.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Powers, seconded by Rep. Gustavson.*

*The vote to move the question carried 27 in favor 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Chase, Kotowski and Newsome.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$50,000 carried 23 in favor 7 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Chase, Ebbin, Frickman, Kotowski, McDermott and J.Streeter)*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portions of minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2018 that pertain to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion to approve the Public Works minutes as amended was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Massett and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1035 - Public Works**

*A motion for \$5,739,146 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Mr. Schneider and Mr. Norris answered questions regarding this account. They heard from Reps. Kotowski, Ebbin, Whitehouse, Frickman, and Bordelon.*

*The vote on \$5,739,146 carried 29 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

**Account 2020 - Sewer Operating Fund**

*A motion for \$6,815,499 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Mr. Lund, Assistant Director of Public Works, fielded questions regarding this account. He heard from Reps. Kotowski, Cini, Newsome, Bordelon, Powers, Whitehouse, and Marshall.*

*The vote on \$6,815,499 carried unanimously.*

**Account 2030 - Solid Waste Fund**

*A motion for \$1,694,483 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote for \$1,694,483 carried 29 in favor 1 not voting. (Not voting: Rep. Welles.)*

*Moderator Ebbin called for a recess at 8:36 p.m.*

*Rep. Cini left at 8:37 p.m. 29 members present.*

*The meeting resumed at 8:51 p.m.*

**Account 6040 - Fleet Reserve Fund**

*A motion for \$1,120,221 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*Moderator Ebbin stated that this figure must be approved by a 2/3 vote.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,000,000 was made by Rep. Bailey, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,000,000 carried 26 in favor 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Massett, Merritt and Powers.)*

**Capital Item - Groton Long Point Bridge Reconstruction**

*A motion for \$300,00 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Mr. Schneider responded to Reps. J. Streeter, Ebbin, and Marshall.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$150,000 was made by Rep. Marshall, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Statements were made by Reps. Bordelon and Newsome. Mr. Schneider responded to Reps. Casper, Mc Dermott, and Frickman.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Frickman, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Mr. Schneider responded to Reps. Powers, Whitehouse, Newsome, Bordelon, Welles, Mello Miller, Casper, and Gustavson.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Monaghan, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski and*

*Newsome.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 failed 3 in favor 26 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Frickman, Kotowski and Welles.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$150,000 failed 10 in favor 19 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bordelon, Chase, Ebbin, Frickman, Kotowski, Marshall, McDermott, Perry, I. Streeter and J. Streeter.)*

*The vote on \$300,000 carried 19 in favor 10 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bordelon, Chase, Ebbin, Frickman, Kotowski, McDermott, Perry, I. Streeter, J. Streeter and Welles.)*

#### **Capital Item - Mystic Streetscape Phase II**

*A motion for \$12,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Golf Club Facilities - Club House**

*A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Marshall.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Rep. McDermott left at 10:04 p.m. 28 members present.*

*Rep. Perry left at 10:05 p.m. 27 members present.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marshall, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 25 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski and Newsome.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 failed 3 in favor 24 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Chase and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$35,000 carried 24 in favor 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Chase and Kotowski.)*

*Moderator Ebbin recessed the meeting at 10:11 p.m until Wednesday, May 9 2018 after the regular RTM meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

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#### **Budget Session - Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Perry, Rep. Powers, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney*

*Members Absent: Rep. Cini, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Washington*

*Moderator Ebbin welcomed new member Adam Puccini representing District 1 and stated that 30 members were present. She declared a quorum.*

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Board of Education Director of Buildings & Grounds Samuel Kilpatrick, Police Chief Louis Fusaro, Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Town Councilors David Atwater and Juliette Parker, Board of Education*

*Chairperson Kim Shepardson Watson, Board of Education members Jay Weitlauf, Rita Volkmann and Lee White, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Whitney read minutes of the meeting held on April 4, 2018. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Whitney, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1080 - Education**

*A motion for \$76,468,239 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Whitney, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Chairman Whitney responded to Rep. Newsome and clarified that the unexpended funds have a projection of \$ 294,000.*

*Dr. Graner responded to Rep. Newsome regarding the International Baccalaureate Program and that the Board is establishing a protocol and fee.*

*Dr. Graner responded to Rep. McDermott regarding student enrollment population; and to Rep. Bordelon regarding year-end savings, medical account savings and Department of Defense grants.*

*In response to Rep. Powers, Dr. Graner explained the distribution of U.S. Impact Aid for Education.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Dr. Graner stated that they will be advertising the International Baccalaureate Program to parents who have contacted him and the parents will pay the tuition.*

*Dr. Graner responded to Rep. Marshall's question of compensating for the decrease in the budget.*

*Rep. Frickman stated for clarification that he opposed this amount in committee, and he cautioned the body in continuing the trend of \$0 increases in the future.*

*Board of Education Chairperson Watson responded to Rep. Whitney, and explained how the Board would make up the \$1.8 million reduction.*

*In response to Moderator Ebbin, Dr. Graner explained that the \$990,000 is a Department of Defense grant. Dr. Graner stated that the Town receives a \$250,000 non-designated grant annually. These funds have accumulated and act as a rainy day fund. He stated that the Board of Education would use funds from this account to make up for the cuts.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Dr. Graner stated that the Board has been tracking the progress with the Client First initiatives and has plans to integrate with the Town on some of the software.*

*Rep. Rogers clarified that the increases in the budget were due to health benefits. In response, Dr. Graner stated that the projection for next year is about a 5% increase.*

*Rep. Mello Miller asked about other ideas to bring more students and money in to our district. She stated that we have great schools. In response, Chairperson Watson explained magnet school tuition costs for prior years. She stated that with the current magnet school program at Northeast Academy and the two grants for the middle schools, the reimbursement for tuition is down. She stated that they are advertising our programs. Also, there is a moratorium for multi-district magnet schools, which prevents students living out side of Groton from attending our schools. In response to Rep. Mello Miller, Dr. Graner stated that there are two kinds of magnet schools, inter-district where students go between districts, which the State finances. He stated that we are*

*offering intra-distinct magnet schools where children within Groton have an opportunity to attend four different schools within town. He stated that once we consolidate, our schools will be more efficient.*

*Rep. Casper mentioned Old Lyme/Lyme schools have \$10,000 for advertising and are proposing \$50,000 for next year. In response, Chairperson Watson stated that Groton has an employee who is in charge of advertising.*

*Rep. Welles suggested that we re-use the name Mystic Academy.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Dr. Graner stated that the site budgets for schools are to be funded at 75% for next year. He stated that the Board is trying to include a more robust engineering and draftsmen program and that he is pursuing a Junior ROTC program.*

*Rep. Whitney stated his concern regarding the cuts to site budgets and hoped that unexpended funds would be used to restore these budgets.*

*Moderator Ebbin called for the vote. The vote on \$76,468,239 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Water Safety Needs**

*A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Whitney, seconded by Rep. Frickman.*

*Rep. Marshall raised a Point of Clarification as to the motion on the floor. In response, Moderator Ebbin stated that the motion on the floor is the Committee's number and that it requires a 2/3 vote to restore funds above the Town Council.*

*Rep. Bordelon made a statement regarding Capital Improvement Projects seeming to get lost. She stated that this CIP is from two years ago. She asked if other funds could have been used for this expenditure. She stated that the teaching staff were not made aware of the water problems in the schools. She stated that she would like assurance that this type of delay doesn't happen again and that the problems could have been fixed out of the current budget.*

*Rep. Richards asked for clarification stating that the next step in the mitigation plan is to change fixtures affected and retest, yet the FYE 2019 funds are for the development of plans and specifications for water service needs. In response, Superintendent Dr. Graner stated that these funds are for the engineering study plans. He stated that the fixtures have been replaced and the staff has done what it could. He stated that we are currently re-testing. He stated that the Board provided bottled water for all school with high-level lead testing. He encouraged support of this expenditure.*

*Rep. J. Streeter stated that he respectfully disagrees with the Town Council. He noted that Claude Chester School will possibly be closing in three years, yet the children are still exposed to the lead. He stated that he is unaware of any reuse plans for this school. He supports the \$50,000.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Dr. Graner explained the procedure to testing water. Rep. Newsome stated that he would like to support this funding, yet the Board has not defined the parameters or isolated anything of the work that is needed. He stated that he will not be supporting this expenditure.*

*In response to Rep. Bailey, Dr. Graner stated that we are provided bottled water at Claude Chester for \$1000 a year and the High School for \$3,600 a year.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Powers, seconded by Rep. Merritt. Moderator Ebbin stated that the motion needs a two-thirds vote in favor to pass.*

*Motion to move the question fails 17 in favor 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Bordelon, Chase, Ebbin, Frickman, Gustavson, Kotowski, Marshall, McDermott, Melendez, Welles, Whitehouse, and Whitney.)*

*Rep. Marshall stated, and Dr. Graner confirmed, that this study could be paid for out of the current Board of Education budget. He stated that regardless of the passage of this project, this project needs to be started. He stated that he will support this motion.*

*Rep. McDermott suggest shutting off the lines that are contaminated and run new lines.*

*In response to Rep. Gustavson, Dr. Graner stated that a nurses office sink and 55 water sources were tested. He stated that there are over 600 water sources though out the district.*

*Rep. Whitney stated his personal opinion in support of the \$50,000.*

*Rep. Frickman stated his personal opinion in support of the \$50,000.*

*Rep. Adams asked the Town Councilor members present to explain why they de-funded this project. Councilor Parked stated that she wanted more information and the have all of the testing complete. She stated that the identified pipes has been replaced but the were not re-tested. She stated that the problem may be fixed, but we won't know until we re-test.*

*Rep. Merritt confirmed that the pipes had been replaced and re-tested. Dr. Graner stated that the water coming into the school is acceptable so they know that the Groton Utilities water is acceptable.*

*Rep. Bauer stated her personal opinion in support of the \$50,000.*

*Councilor Atwater stated rather than spend \$50,000 on a study, that the money should be spent immediately to remedy the problem. That a remedy should have moved forward instead of being put off.*

*Rep. Welles stated his personal opinion in how to bypass the pipes.*

*Rep. Mellow Miller questioned the project as being discovered in 2016 and then brought as a CIP last year.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Newsome, Seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 fails 5 in favor 25 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Bailey, Chase, Kotowski and Newsome.)*

*The vote on \$50,000 carried 25 in favor 4 opposed 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Chase, Kotowski and Newsome. Abstaining: Rep. Adams.)*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2018 Education Committee meeting was made by Rep. Whitney, seconded by Rep. Marshall and so voted unanimously.*

*Moderator Ebbin called for a recess at 9:45 p.m.*

*The meeting resumed at 9:55 p.m.*

#### **Account 1024 - Public Safety**

*Chairman J. Streeter read applicable portions of minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting that pertain*

*to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Chief Fusaro stated that all of the firearms have been upgraded to P-320 .45 caliber guns and that all guns had been recalled for safety issues have been replaced.*

*In response to Moderator Ebbin Chief Fusaro stated, police that work around construction sites are paid by the entity that is doing the work and overtime does not go toward their retirement.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that this budget has increased in a short period of time from \$6 million to over \$8 million and if you include benefits the budget is around \$12 million. In response, Chief Fusaro stated that the \$1million overtime includes dispatch. He stated that one officer has been assigned to community policing.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon Chief Fusaro stated that until recently there was no budget for community policing. He stated that there is about \$20,000 included in the FYE2019 budget. The Chief stated that minority hiring is a regular practice along with fair and impartial police training.*

*In response to Rep. Mello Miller, Chief Fusaro stated that officers are pulled from the force and re-purposed and re-tasked to specifically address some of the narcotics problems.*

*A motion for \$8,347,016 as approved by committee was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on \$8,347,016 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Public Safety Radio Upgrade-Replacement**

*Chairman J. Streeter read applicable minutes to this account from the May 9, 2018 meeting. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Discussion regarding communications between surrounding towns and state agencies, estimated cost increases with other systems, Reps, McDermott, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Powers, Chief Fusaro described the radio system and the ability to communicate with surrounding towns and state agencies.*

*A motion for \$1,000,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*Rep Richards clarified that the CIP document states that there for FYE 2019 and 2020 funds to be requested \$1,025,000 per years to purchase new mobile and portable radios and that later in document its states that the Town Manager recommends \$1,000,000 based on further pricing from the state and vendors. In response, Town Manager Burt stated that with this type of project you can run into overages.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Chief Fusaro stated that no system guarantees 100% coverage but that this system has a 95% rating. He stated that in the event of a catastrophic failure the system is designed to be able to relocate to another facility.*

*Rep. Chase stated her reason for support of this motion.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Merritt.*

*The vote to move the question carried 29 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$1,000,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Public Safety CAD/RMS Integration**

*Chairman J. Streeter read applicable portions of minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2018.*

*A motion for \$320,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated her reasons for supporting this motion.*

*The vote on \$320,000 carried unanimously.*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Safety Committee meeting held on May 9, 2018 was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Marshall and so voted unanimously.*

*Rep. Kotowski asked if the RTM could increase the fund to the City of Groton so that they could purchase the same radio equipment. Moderator Ebbin stated that the RTM may not increase funds over the Town Council for the City of Groton and the RTM may not direct expenditures for any accounts.*

*Rep. Marshall requested a straw vote of the members present to take up other Public Works accounts. Moderator Ebbin cautioned this action stating that the Department was not represented this evening. Moderator Ebbin took a straw vote and the motion failed.*

*At 10:32 p.m. Moderator Ebbin recessed the meeting until Tuesday, May 15, 2018.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Budget Session - Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.*

*Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Powers, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Washington, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney*

*Members Absent: Rep. Cini, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Marley, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Perry, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Wagner*

*Also absent was Rep. Puccino.*

*Moderator Ebbin stated that 30 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*The Moderator reported that Reps. Frickman, Gustavson and I. Streeter notified the Town Clerk of their absence.*

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Public Works Assistant Director Chris Lund, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Berry, Manager of Recreation Services Jerry Lokken, Senior Center Supervisor Mary Jo Riley, Town Councilor Rachael Franko, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (continued)**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portions of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to accounts on this evenings agenda. (Minutes are on file.)*

#### **Capital Item - Public Buildings - Police**

*A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Public Works Director Gary Schneider responded to Rep. Bordelon regarding the efficiency for the*

*dispatch area to coordinate with the Police Officers on duty.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Bordelon, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. She stated that this project could be completed next year.*

*Town Manager Burt stated that this is an important project. In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Mr. Burt described the project. Mr. Schneider responded to Rep. Bailey regarding the construction project. Rep. Kotowski stated her reason in opposing this project. In response to Rep. Newsome, Mr. Burt stated that the dispatch duties are now a responsibility of the Police Department. In response to Rep. Marshall, Mr. Schneider explained the CIP for \$140,000 as the last phase for the pistol range in the basement of the Police Station.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 failed 15 in favor 15 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Bailey, Bordelon, Chase, Ebbin, Hanscom, Kotowski, Martin, McDermott, Mello Miller, Newsome, Quinn, Richards, Strobe and Whitney.)*

*The vote on \$50,000 carried 17 in favor 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Bordelon, Chase, Ebbin, Kotowski, Martin, McDermott, Mello Miller, Newsome, Quinn, Richards, Strobe and Whitney.)*

#### **Capital Item - Fuel Tank Replacement**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$400,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Reps. Merritt and Powers asked questions regarding the project. Public Works Director Gary Schneider responded by explaining the entire project and the life expectancy of the fuel pumps.*

*The vote on \$400,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Groton Ambulance**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$66,00 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Town Manager John Burt stated that the rent is \$0. Mr. Burt explained the project and he stated that the Town owns the building and the land is part of the Jabez Smith property*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$21,000 was made by Rep. Bordelon, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that this is not a charity, it is a tax-exempt business and that the taxpayers are getting a bad deal.*

*Rep. Washington stated that she supports the \$21,000 and she quoted Councilor Zeppieri by stating that the taxpayers should not fund private businesses.*

*In response to Rep. Merritt, Mr. Burt stated that we can not look for another business at this time.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$21,000 carried 26 in favor 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Massett Powers and J. Streeter.)*

**Capital Item - Natural Gas Conversions**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes from the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$400,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Stanford.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that this project should be delayed.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated that not every project needs to be a priority on a year where we are struggling to make ends meet. In response, Mr. Schneider stated that this is a priority. He explained the details of the project. He stated that the tank must be removed in April 2019.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$200,000 was made by Rep. Bordelon, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall. Mr. Schneider explained that the \$400,000 would only do the Highway Garage. He stated that there is a five year plan that depicts future projects. Rep. Marshall stated that this motion can not be voted on because it is no longer the listed CIP project.*

*The motion to amend to \$200,000 was withdrawn by Rep. Bordelon in support of the motion for \$0.*

*In response to Rep. Mello Miller, Mr. Schneider stated that with the gas conversion, there will be a \$4000 a year savings for fuel. Mr. Schneider described the Eversource natural gas conversion project. He stated that the gas pipes are being installed and the Town has five years to convert one building to gas to fulfill the agreement.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that we will save on the mechanical if we convert to natural gas. He stated that this is a forward looking project and supports \$400,000.*

*Rep. Newsome stated that if this project is not funded, the Town will still need to replace the tank next April. He stated that he supports the \$400,000.*

*Rep. Streeter stated that we have eight more building to convert to gas. He asked if bonding the entire project could be considered. In response, Mr. Schneider stated that this has not been considered for bonding. He explained the life expectancy of the other tanks.*

*Rep. Chase confirmed that Eversource pays to run the gas lines in the streets. Mr. Schneider stated that Eversource agreed to run the lateral line into the building, but that any other sites would be the responsibility of the Town.*

*In response to Rep. Casper, Mr. Schneider stated that the heating system for the Highway Garage was new in 1990 and that some of the pipping was installed in 1959.*

*Rep. Hanscome stated that natural gas is slightly less polluting than burning fossil fuels. Mr. Schneider stated that it burns cleaner but he doesn't know the greenhouse gas effects.*

*In response to Rep. Washington, Mr. Schneider stated that it is possible to bond but they were advised not to bond these projects.*

*Rep. Monaghan stated his support for the project.*

*Rep. Streeter stated that it would be cost effective to bond if we were to combine the nine projects together with the waste water projects.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that it would be possible to put this project together for a referendum.*

*In response to Rep. Powers, Mr. Burt stated that any projects that are bonded adds to the mill rate. He mentioned that there will be a bridge project to bond in the next two years, the roads and the schools. He stated that he is not in favor of bonding if you don't need to.*

*In response to Rep. Rogers, Finance Director Cindy Landry stated that she agrees with the financial adviser about bonding for the sewer projects. She stated that unless you are going to have a large-scale bonding project it is cost prohibitive.*

*Rep. McDermott stated that the question of bonding is tangential to the whole discussion, more information is needed.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Marshall.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 failed 3 in favor 27 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bordelon, Chase and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$400,000 carried 26 in favor 3 opposed and 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Bordelon, Chase and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. J. Streeter.)*

#### **Capital Item - Sewer Line Infrastructure Repair**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$479,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Whitehouse.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Assistant Public Works Director Chris Lund stated that they would not be cutting the roads to do the work.*

*Assistant Public Works Director Chris Lund stated that the RTM has already approved the funding for all of the projects. The process now is approving individual projects. He stated that no tax dollars are used for these projects, only sewer use funds.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that the sewer users are taxpayers.*

*The vote on \$479,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Pump Stations**

*Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes from the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$200,000 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Mr. Lund stated that the future project will be funded through sewer use funds and the fees are increased periodically by the Water Pollution Control Authority.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Mr. Lund stated that the sewer district tax is for areas in town that*

are not connected to the sewer. He stated that those fees are put toward the maintenance of the infrastructure. Mr. Schneider stated that septic waste is received for free by the waste treatment plant.

In response to Rep. Rogers, Mr. Lund stated that this project is particular to the gas and go pump station located near the Nautilus Museum. This pump serves the sub-base and down Route 12 to the catchment basin. He stated that this pump has not failed but the mechanics are old and strained. He stated that this project should not be delayed because it would delay the next pump in secession for replacement.

The vote on \$200,000 carried unanimously.

#### **Capital Item - Treatment Facility**

Chairman Newsome read applicable portion of minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion for \$52,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Adams.

In response to Rep. Bordolon, Mr. Lund stated the CT DEEP is the purveyor of all Federal grants for clean water funds. He stated that the Town does submit for those grants. He mentioned a USDA rural agriculture grant, which the Town submits for also.

The vote on \$52,000 carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee April 25, 2018 meeting was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Casper and so voted unanimously.

#### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Mello Miller read applicable portions of minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting that pertain to this evenings accounts. (Minutes are on file.)

#### **Account 1064 - Parks & Recreation**

A motion for \$1,529,832 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Marshall.

Rep. Kotowski made a statement of appreciation for the Parks and Recreation Department.

MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,429,832 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.

Rep. Kotowski stated that she appreciates that the Town Manager and Director of Parks and Recreation eliminated a position. She stated that the RTM has increased the 4.2% tax increase that the Town Council has made during budget deliberations. She stated that with an 8.7% tax increase from last year, there has to be a point at which the RTM starts to scale back.

In response to Rep. Marshall, Parks and Recreation Director Mark Berry stated that with a \$100,000 budget cut, he would have to close neighborhood parks. Rep. Marshall stated that he supports the original motion.

Rep. Whitney stated that he supports the original motion. He read data that he had made note of from a Town Council meeting.

Rep. Bordelon stated her support for the Parks and Recreation programs. In response to her question, Mr. Berry stated that Parks and Recreation provide grass cutting and field lining at Poquonnock Plains Park for the Board of Education. The Board of Education pays for this service.

*Rep. Mello Miller commented on the motion on the floor and the reductions to this department.*

*Rep. Richards stated her appreciation for the programs that are offered through Parks and Recreation. She stated that she will be supporting the first motion.*

*Rep. Washington stated that she is in support of the first motion.*

*Rep. Whitehouse made comments in support of the Parks and Recreation programs. Director of Parks and Recreation stated that the Fall Festival proceeds help fund the Holiday Lights parade.*

*Rep. Rogers made comments in support of the Parks and Recreation programs and parks.*

*In response to Rep. Bailey, Manager of Recreation Jerry Lokken stated that the Town collaborates with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce on the Fall Festival and Holiday Lights parade. He stated that the proceeds from the Fall Festival contributes to the Holiday Lights parade.*

*Rep. McDermott mentioned the relationship that the Town has with land preservation groups. He stated that he supports the first motion.*

*Rep. Bauer stated her support for the Parks and Recreation programs and the value the services provide.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,429,832 failed 1 in favor 29 opposed. (In favor: Rep. Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$1,529,832 carried 29 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski)*

#### **Account 2010 - Shennecossett Golf Course Fund**

*Chairman Mello Miller read applicable portion of minutes from the April 10, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$1,357,833 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Stanford.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Mr. Berry stated that revenues change from year to year, and that all unencumbered funds are put into a special fund balance that is used from year to year to pay expenses.*

*In response to Rep. Kotowski, Mr. Berry confirmed that employee benefits are paid out of this fund.*

*The vote on \$1,357,833 carried 29 in favor 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 3240 - Recreation & Senior Activities**

*Chairman Mello Miller read applicable portion of minutes from the April 10, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$1,093,949 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*The vote on \$1,093,949 carried unanimously.*

*A motion to approve the Parks & Recreation Committee minutes of April 10, 2018 was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Melendez and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - Spicer Park Dock**

*Chairman Mello Miller read applicable portion of minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$26,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Mr. Berry stated that funds raised by fees for boat storage so far are \$19,000 and the bid is for \$26,000. He stated that they expect to be able to do this work within the next fiscal year.*

*The vote on \$26,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Capital Item - 55+ Community Fitness Zone**

*Chairman Mello Miller read applicable portion of minutes from the May 15, 2018 meeting that pertain to this accounts. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*The vote on \$0 carried unanimously.*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee May 15, 2018 as amended by Rep. Marshall was made by Rep. Mello Miller, seconded by Rep. Stanford and so voted unanimously.*

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portions of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this evenings accounts. (Minutes are on file.)*

##### **Account 1001 - Legislative Policy**

*A motion for \$54,955 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*The vote on \$54,955 carried unanimously.*

##### **Account 1010 - Executive Management**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$346,869 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Powers.*

*In response to Rep. Merritt, Town Manager John Burt stated that the Town Council added an addition \$10, 000 for the Assistant Town Manager position. This appropriation was made after the budget book had been printed.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$336,869 was made by Rep. Bailey, seconded by Rep. Massett. In response to Rep. Bailey, Town Manager Burt stated that this is not a new hire, it is a change in classification.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Mr. Burt stated that the Assistant to the Town Manager is a different position. Mr. Burt stated that the \$10, 000 was originally in the Human Resources account.*

*In response to Moderator Ebbin, Mr. Burt stated that the position is about 10% of the Human*

*Resources Director's current hours.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Mr. Burt stated that there is no intention for the Assistant Town Manager's position to become a full-time position.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$336,869 failed unanimously. 30 opposed.*

*The vote on \$346,869 carried unanimously, 30 in-favor.*

#### **Account 1006 - Legal Services**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$300,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Town Manager explained that the original budget was for \$335,000, but it was decided to do more in-house. Mr. Zagami will be taking the lead in contract negotiation.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Mr. Burt stated that the increase is from tax liens that will eventually be reimbursed.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Mr. Burt stated that the Town Attorney encompass an entire law firm.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Chairman Oliver repeated a portion of the minutes for this account.*

*The vote on \$300,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 1092 - Fire District PILOT**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$246,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Mr. Burt stated that the original formula was set up so that each fire department would receive \$7,000 and the remainder of the grant would be distributed according to how much state land and non-taxable property was in each district. He stated that the state grant had been stable until recently. The decision has been made to keep the distribution the same at this time.*

*The vote on \$246,000 carried unanimously.*

*At 9:16 p.m. Moderator Ebbin recessed the meeting until Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Budget Session - Thursday, May 17, 2018**

*Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.*

Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Perry, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strobe, Rep. Washington, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney  
Members Absent: Rep. Cini, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Marley, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers and Rep. Wagner

*Moderator Ebbin stated that 32 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Planning & Development Director Jon Reiner, Assistant Director Planning & Development Deborah Jones, Human Services Director Marge Fondulas, Groton Public Library Director Betty Anne Reiter, GMTV Shawn Greeley, Mystic and Noank Library Director Christine Johnson, Bill Memorial Library Director Wendy Connal, VNA of Southeastern CT President Mary Lenzini, Ledge Lighthouse Health District Supervisor Jennifer Muggeo, Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra Executive Director Caleb Bailey, Pete Chappell of Pete's Marine Sewage Disposal, Probate Judge Nicholas Kepple, Town Councilor Conrad Heede, Board of Education member Jay Weitlauf, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.*

*Moderator Ebbin stated Rep. Wagner notified the Town Clerk of her absence and Rep. Gustavson notified the Town Clerk he would be arriving late.*

*The Moderator reported Ledge Light Health District requested that their account be the first to be reviewed this evening.*

**Community Development & Services (continued)**

**Account 10540 - Ledge Light Health District**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*Jennifer Maggio represented Ledge Light Health District. She explained the Lyme tick program.*

*A motion for \$289,354 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*The vote on \$289,354 carried unanimously.*

**Account 10541 - VNA School**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$1,081,278 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Mary Lenzini responded to questions from Reps. Washington, Bordelon, Ebbin, Newsome, Town Clerk Moukawsher, regarding how many nurses and school health aides per school, qualifications for health aides, field trip attendance, insurance reimbursement for medical care; community health and wellness programs.*

*The vote on \$1,081,278 carried 31 in favor 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Chase.)*

**Account 10542 - VNA Health**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$33,968 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*Rep. Kotowski asked about duplication of services. Venues like Walmart conduct flu clinics and offer blood pressure testing. In response, Ms. Lenzini stated that this service had been provided to*

*this Town for many years. The seniors and the program folks at the Senior Center appreciate having this service. The nurses conduct other functions and screening for the patients at the clinics.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$0 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*In response to Rep. Richards, Ms. Lenzini stated that 354 flu shots were given and 1799 blood pressure were taken at the 156 clinics.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Ms. Lenzini stated that people that have difficulty with transportation to the Senior Center, and other gather places. Homebound clients are given service by the visiting nurses. She stated a portion of the funding is set aside for indigents patients. She stated that they provide skilled nursing services. LPN are not allowed to work indigent of an RN.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Ms. Linzini stated that \$20,000 is for indigents care provided to people who will not get help elsewhere and if insurance is available they charged just for the vaccine.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$24,000 was made and then withdrawn by Rep. Whitehouse, seconded by Rep. Kotowski. He stated that people may be attending these clinics because of the convenience.*

*Rep. Whitney reviewed the break down for the services and declared these services a great value. He stated that he supports the original motion.*

*Rep. Marshall stated that if a lower figure is approved the RTM can not dictate how it is spent. Ms. Linzini stated that the amount is lowered because of the participation from last year and some found efficiencies.*

*Rep. Casper expressed his support for this program.*

*Rep. Monaghan stated that he supports the main motion and expressed his opinions.*

*Rep. Whitehouse and Kotowski withdrew their motion.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$0 failed 3 in favor 28 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Kotowski, McDermott and Quinn.)*

*The vote on \$33,968 carried 29 in favor 2 opposed and 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski and Quinn. Abstaining: Rep. Chase.)*

#### **Account 10543 - Groton Ambulance**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$52,976 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*In response to Rep. Washington, Taylor Salvo, of the Groton Ambulance Association, stated that they are a non-profit organization providing the EMS service for Groton. The funding supports stand-by events where they offer non dedicated ambulance for school sporting events and other events of that nature. These funds also cover assistance to the public where we cannot receive reimbursement from insurance.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated that the Town provides the building free of rent. She stated that she has*

*trouble with providing the addition funds. In response, Mr. Salvo stated that they have included in their budget repairs and capital improvements for the building. He stated that part of the Town Manager's budget provides funds for repairs. He stated that a new lease is being discussed. He stated that in the past, the Town maintained the exterior and the Association maintained the interior.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Mr. Salvo stated that non-reimbursable calls occur any time someone is not transported to a hospital. He explained their robust volunteer program.*

*In response to Rep. Merritt, Mr. Salvo confirmed that any repairs will go through the Town RFP procedure.*

*Rep. Casper asked questions about volunteers and fee increases.*

*Rep. Washington asked about applying for grants. In response, Mr. Salvo stated that they received grants from FEMA for exhaust systems and devise for automated CPR.*

*In response to Rep. Newsome, Mr. Salvo stated that the Association will be conducting stop the bleed class.*

*Rep. Massett stated that the volunteer incentive had increased from \$750 to \$10,000. In response, Mr. Salvo stated that this is a conservative increase for their new volunteer incentive program.*

*In response to Rep. Streeter, the accounts for legal and utilities fees are part of their operating budget, not from this request.*

*In response to Rep. Monaghan, Mr. Salvo stated that they are looking to expand the public outreach and public education programs.*

*In response to Moderator Ebbin, Mr. Salvo stated that this request is to cover non-reimbursable fees and the stand-by for school functions.*

*The vote on \$52,976 carried 31 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Monaghan.)*

#### **Account 10545 - Service Agencies**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$63,657 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Hanscom stated why she didn't support funding the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Concert in Committee. She stated that this concert should be paid for through a grant.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$68,657 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Marshall. She stated that this concert is well appreciated by the school district students and staff.*

*In response to Rep. Bordelon, Human Service Director Marge Fondulas stated that under committee review, items that were cut were funded by other sources or not supported requests. Most requests were reduced by 5%.*

*Rep. Casper responded to Rep. Mello Miller by stated that the Crisis Center services are duplicated by Safer Futures, Inc.*

*Rep. Gustavson arrived at 7:59 p.m. 33 members present.*

*Rep. Rogers stated that she supports the higher number and the statements of Rep. Bordelon. She stated that she will support the higher number but that she would like to fund SACCEC and Meals on Wheels instead of the Symphony.*

*Ms. Fondulas responded to Rep. Whitney and explained the accounts that were not recommended for funding.*

*Rep. Washington stated her support of the comments by Rep. Bordelon.*

*Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Caleb Bailey described the education concert offered to third and fourth grade students in Groton.*

*Rep Monaghan stated that we are not cutting substantially from last year. He stated that he works with Safe Futures and he has never heard of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut. He stated that he is supporting the \$68,657.*

*MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Marshall, seconded by Rep. Merritt.*

*The vote on moving the question carried 24 in favor 8 opposed 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Bordelon, Chase, Frickman, Hanscom, Kotowski, Mello Miller, Monaghan and Newsome. Abstaining: Rep. Gustavson.)*

*The vote on the amendment of \$68,657 carried 21 in favor 5 opposed 7 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Adams, Bailey, Hanscom, Newsome and Strode. Abstaining: Reps. Bordelon, Chase, Massett, Mello Miller, Stanford, J. Streeter and Washington.)*

#### **Account 10547 - Marine Sewage Disposal**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$19,980 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Casper*

*In response to Moderator Ebbin and Rep. McDermott, Peter Chappell gave an explanation of services. Comments were made by Reps, Bordelon, Casper, and Bailey.*

*The vote on \$19,980 carried 32 in favor 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Ebbin.)*

#### **Account 10548 - Mystic River Ambulance**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated that this account had been cut from the original request. In response, President of Mystic River Ambulance Michael Gilman explained that the funds from Stonington and Groton are put in an ambulance account to purchase new ambulances. He also responded to Rep. Marshall question by stating that they purchased new chassis.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 10549 - Mystic Noank Library**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.) He noted the committee figure was \$125,000 but is amending that figure as it*

*can not go above the Town Council number.*

*A motion for \$100,000 was made by Rep. Oliver. seconded by Rep. Mello Miller.*

*Rep. Washington asked the Library Director Christine Johnson if they planned for any out-reach programs to sit on their Board of Directors, In response, Ms. Johnson stated that they have always invited the entire Town of Groton and Stonington to sit on the Board. In response to Rep. Bordelon and Adams, she explained how funding is provided.*

*Rep. Kotowski stated that it has been suggested in the past and more recently that the Library wean themselves from the Town of Groton for financial assistance. There endowment of \$6 million would last six years. The Library has been open 125 years, The board provides 2/3 of the total budget and they have about nine times as much in circulation as the Bill Memorial Library.*

*Rep. Richards and Rep. Rodgers spoke in favor of supporting this account. Ms. Rodgers mentioned the June fundraiser.*

*Rep. McDermott spoke on behalf of his constituents who ask to support this account. He reported the reductions that have incurred for the Groton Public Library and this account. He encouraged support for this account. Rep. Whitehouse spoke in favor of this account.*

*The vote on \$100,000 carried unanimously.*

#### **Account 10549A - Bill Memorial Library**

*Chairman Oliver read the applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$23,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Massett.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$18,700 was made by Rep. Bailey, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated that \$100,000 was just approved for the Mystic and Noank Library. She spoke about the need for the other side of town. She stated her support for this account.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Library Director Wendy Connal stated that these funds go toward their general budget. Ms. Connal stated that the Library has applied for a grant that will enable an upgrade to the HVAC system.*

*Rep. Bauer disclosed that she reads for a nursery school program at the Library. She spoke in favor of the full amount.*

*In response to Rep. Whitehouse, Ms. Connal stated that with this reduction, they would lose their annual technology upgrades and some staffing hours.*

*Rep. Whitney confirmed that usership has gone up 18%. He supports the full funding.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$18,700 failed 3 in favor 30 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Adams, Bailey and Quinn.)*

*The vote on \$23,000 carried 32 in favor 1 opposed. Opposed: Rep. Bailey.)*

#### **Account 1046 - Planning & Development Services**

*Chairman Oliver read the applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$1,323,531 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Monaghan.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,274,531 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey. Ms. Kotowski stated that this is a large account and it was increased this year. She stated her hope in the success of all the current project that will reduce the tax burden. She stated that in the last four years the department had spent \$460,699 on consultants, not including the \$200,000 spent on the zoning regulations. She requested that the \$50,000 reduction be for consulting fees.*

*Rep. Monaghan stated his support of the first motion. He stated his opinion of support.*

*Rep Bordelon stated her support in the first motion. She stated that the only problem with planning is the community not embracing change.*

*Mr. Burt stated that the original request was for an addition \$100,000 for consultants. He mentioned some of the project included in this budget. Director of Planning and Development Services Jon Reiner stated that appraisal fees, not consulting fees, are in this budget.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall, Mr. Reiner highlighted items that were cut from this budget.*

*Rep Whitehouse stated that he is the liaison to the Economic Development Commission. He stated his support of the original request.*

*Rep. Rogers disclosed that her husband is a local developer involved in a current project on Route 1. She spoke in favor in support of this budget.*

*Rep, Bailey spoke in support of the \$50,000 cut.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,274,531 failed 2 in favor 31 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski.)*

*The vote on \$1,323,531 carried 31 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski.)*

#### **Account 1063 - Groton Public Library**

*Chairman Oliver read the applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$1,663,646 was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$1,613,646 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Bailey. She stated her rational for this cut.*

*Rep. Mello Miller stated that this account has already been decreased by \$50,000. She stated that she supports the original amount.*

*Library Director Betty Anne Reiter stated that she can't tell how many people that use the library are from Groton. She stated that over 200,000 people walk through the doors annually. She stated that this is a free and open library and they do not ask where people are from. She stated that 89,000 items were checked out by non-residents, out of about 300,000 total.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated her support for this account.*

*Rep. Washington stated her support for this account.*

*In response to Rep. Marshall question about the increase maintenance fees, Ms. Reiter stated that this is for the Borrow IT fund software fees that is now in the Library budget. She stated that these are not new charges.*

*Rep. Richards stated that she supports the original number.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$1,613,646 failed 2 in favor 30 opposed 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski. Abstaining: Rep. Marshall.)*

*The vote on \$1,663,646 carried 31 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey and Kotowski.)*

*Moderator Ebbin called for a recess at 9:15 p.m.*

*The meeting resumed at 9:39 p.m.*

#### **Capital Item - Library & GMTV Servers Replace/Upgrade**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes of the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$49,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. J. Streeter.*

*Reps. Kotowski, McDermott, Whitehouse, Bordelon, Newsome, and Marshall lent comments, opinions, and words of supports.*

*The vote on \$49,000 carried 32 in favor 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Kotowski.)*

#### **Capital Item - Town Meeting Room AV/Presentation Equip.**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$18,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*Shawn Greeley responded to Rep. Marshall, Richards, and Bordelon.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$24,000 was made by Rep. Bordelon, seconded by Rep. Marshall.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$24,000 failed 16 in favor 17 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bauer, Bordelon, Casper, Gustavson, Marshall, Melendez, Mello Miller, Merritt, Monaghan, Perry, Richards, Rogers, I. Streeter, J. Streeter, Welles and Whitehouse.)*

*Shawn Greeley responded to Reps. McDermott, Bailey, Whitehouse, and Newsome.*

*The vote on \$18,000 carried 31 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Kotowski and Merritt.)*

*Rep. Gustavson left at 10:03 p.m. 32 member present.*

#### **Account 3310 - Borrow IT CT**

*Chairman Oliver read the applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$18,300 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1051 - Human Services**

*Chairman Oliver read the applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$610,523 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*In response to Reps. Kotowski, Newsome, Bordelon, and Bailey, Human Services Director Marge Fondulas explained the needs and responsibilities of this department.*

*MOTION TO AMEND to \$590,000 was made by Rep. Bailey, seconded by Rep. Kotowski.*

*Reps. McDermott, Ebbin, Marshall, Chase, Bordelon, and Whitehouse made statements and asked questions of the Director.*

*The vote on the amendment of \$590,000 failed 3 in favor 29 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bailey, Kotowski and Quinn.)*

*The vote on \$610,523 carried 29 in favor 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bailey, Kotowski and Quinn.)*

*Rep. Frickman left at 10:28 p.m. 31 members present.*

#### **Account 7320 - Human Services Assistance Fund**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$10,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1007 - Regional Agencies**

*Chairman Oliver read applicable portion of minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$132,034 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

*In response to Rep. Kotowski, asked question regarding SEAT. Mr. Burt reported 70,000 riders a year for the main route.*

*Rep. Bordelon stated her support for these accounts.*

*The motion carried unanimously. Moderator Ebbin recognized Probate Judge Nicholas Kepple.*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 Community Development and Services Committee meeting was made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Rep. Marshall and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 5010 - Capital Reserve Fund**

*Chairman Washington read the applicable portion of minutes from the April 25, 2018 meeting. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$3,528,000 was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey and so voted unanimously.*

#### **Account 1075 - Capital Reserve (contribution)**

*pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$2,297,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.*

**Account 1074 - Contingency**

*Chairman Washington read the applicable portion of minutes from the April 25, 2018 meeting that pertain to this account. (Minutes are on file.)*

*A motion for \$450,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Bailey.*

*The vote on \$450,000 carried 30 in favor 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Merritt.)*

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee April 25, 2018 meeting was made by Rep. Washington, seconded by Rep. Whitney and so vote unanimously.*

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

*Moderator Ebbin adjourned the meeting at 10:47 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Dawn G. Rahilly, Deputy Town Clerk*